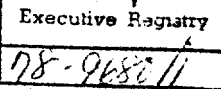


4 AUG 1978



MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: John F. Blake
Deputy Director for Administration

SUBJECT: Reply to the Archivist's Letter of 14 July 1978

1. Action Requested: Attached for your signature is a reply to the 14 July 1978 letter from Dr. Rhoads of the National Archives and Records Service (NARS) in which he requests your cooperation and leadership in the preparation of the Agency and Community systematic classification review guidelines required by Executive Order 12065.

2. Background:

a. Executive Order 12065 will go into effect on 1 December. It modifies extensively the present system of classification of national security information, and planning for its implementation involves, among other things, the development of detailed classification and declassification guides.

b. In his letter, Archivist Rhoads urges that in the development of these guidelines an effort be made to develop a degree of consistency in the practices of the various agencies of government in their efforts to protect information concerning intelligence sources and methods. He urges an active role by the DCI in leading this effort to develop consistent guidelines.

c. There is a potential problem which faces us as a result of provisions in the Executive Order authorizing the Archivist of the United States to use the guidelines for systematic declassification prepared by the other agencies of government, including the agencies of the Intelligence Community. Our experience in our declassification program to date causes us to doubt whether it will ever be possible, on matters having to do with the protection of sources and methods, to defer to the judgment of persons without intelligence experience. There may come a time, therefore, when we will want to negotiate arrangements with NARS which will ensure that their use of these guidelines involves close and continuing

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consultation with officers from this Agency. The letter which is attached expresses concern about this problem, assures the Archivist that we will consult with NARS on the guidelines, and welcomes the opportunity to work closely with NARS in the development of an effective declassification program.

3. Staff Position: The proposed response to the letter from Dr. Rhoads has been concurred in by the Office of General Counsel and the Chairman, SECOM.

4. Recommendation: That you sign the attached letter to Dr. Rhoads.

Signed: John F. Blake

John F. Blake

Attachment: a/s

Distribution:

Original - Addressee w/att

1 - DDCI w/att

1 - ER w/att

1 - OGC w/att

1 - Chairman, SECOM w/att

1 - ISAS w/att